AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A recombinant microorganism of *Escherichia coli* being capable of producing vitamin B_6, wherein said microorganism carries extra nucleic acids encoding **[[an]]** a synergistic enzyme combination selected from the group consisting of:

i) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 and 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 6;

ii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10; and

iii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2, 1-deoxy-D-

xylulose 5-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 6 and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Original) A process for preparing vitamin B_6 comprising the steps of:

i) culturing the recombinant microorganism of claim 1 in a fermentation broth; and

ii) separating the resulting vitamin B_6 from the fermentation broth.

Claim 4. (Cancelled).

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for

the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 6.5 to 7.5, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 34°C to 37°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.